

Adjudged

proffered two Servant boys to have their age adjudged. The one named William Flanagan is adjudged to be fourteen years of age, and the other named Edward Mauhhey is adjudged to be thirteen years of Age, and they are ordered to serve according to law.”

(It should be noted that the name FLANAGAN is spelled just that way in this record. - - Various spellings of the name are set out above.)

At this time it was customary that a person serve a time as an indentured servant in exchange for the cost of passage on a ship. This is apparently what is meant by “ordered to serve according to law.” Apparently the usual time for children was 6 or 7 years.³

According to Bill Rylance whose wife is a Flanagan and is descended from the Patrick Flanagan from the above court record, there are records showing Patrick receiving a land grant in Princess Anne County, Virginia, and later buying other property in Princess Anne County. Bill Rylance writes as follows:

“I do have an abstract of Daniell Gorieng’s will proved on March 19, 1714/15 indicating that his son-in-law Patrick Flanagan was his sole executor. I have information That Patrick was given a land grant of 50 acres in Princess Anne County and a deed where he purchased 100 acres of land on December 27, 1711 in Princess Anne County. I also have the deed where Patrick’s widow and his son, William the younger, sold the 100 acres on March 5, 1733/34, so Patrick was dead at that time. Since Patrick’s move to Princess Anne County, I have documents showing continuous purchases and sales of property by Patrick and Mary and their descendants to where my wife’s father was born in 1887 and the farm being sold in 1906. All property involved was located less than a mile from where Patrick was originally granted land and where he purchased the 100 acres in 1711. I have found

³ THE PERSPECTIVE OF THE WORLD by Fernand Braudel, 1984 reports on “The Import Trade from Ireland” and its large profits to a ship owner or a captain, who: “puts his conditions to the immigrants in Dublin or some other Irish port. . . Those who cannot pay are carried at the expense of the ship owner, who in order to recoup his money, advertises on arrival that he has imported artisans, labourers and domestic servants and that he has agreed with them on his own account to hire their services for a period normally of 3, 4, or 5 years for men and women and 6 or 7 years for children.”

Many servants arrived without written contracts, however, and they were to serve according to “The Custom of the Country.” WHITE SERVITUDE IN COLONIAL AMERICA: AN ECONOMIC ANALYSIS, by David W. Galenson, 1981.